

EASTWOOD
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
D. M. FORBES, F.R.C.S.,
For 1907.

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ANNUAL REPORT
OF
EASTWOOD MEDICAL OFFICER

1907.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my report as Medical Officer for the year 1907 for your consideration.

During the year I made a number of visits of inspection to different parts of the parish, and am pleased to say that there were no cases of serious sanitary defects.

In my opinion the sanitary condition of Eastwood is in an excellent condition; in fact, far better than at any previous time. This opinion receives considerable support from the fact that during the whole year there was only one case of enteric fever, which unfortunately proved fatal.

I attribute the changed condition of affairs for the most part to the energy of the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. A. G. Wheeler, and in a minor degree to the increasing interest taken by the public in hygiene and sanitation.

During the year there was a complete stoppage of the flow of sewage in Nethergreen, causing an overflow into the brook, and necessitating considerable work and expense to put right. The work was finished satisfactorily and the pollution of the brook stopped. The stoppage was caused by the subsidence of the land through colliery workings, and there is little doubt that the same cause will give considerable trouble from time to time.

I am glad to be able to report that the Bailey Grove district is now properly sewered, thus removing a probable source of danger to health and releasing a considerable quantity of liquid matter.

It is a source of satisfaction to know that in new property, and a good percentage of alterations, water closets are being included, as in my opinion the old-fashioned open closets are a source of considerable danger to the public health.

On several occasions I have had to refer to the nuisance arising from the absence of a public urinal, and I must again point out that the lack of such a convenience in a market town is a disgrace, and a menace to the public health.

The ashpits and closets continue to be regularly and satisfactorily emptied.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

It is most satisfactory to be able to report a further and considerable diminution of cases of infectious disease. In 1906 the number of cases was 19, but during 1907 the total was only 10.

Diphtheria cases went down from 7 to 2. The totals are :—

| | | | | |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Scarlet Fever | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| Diphtheria | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Enteric Fever | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| | | | | — |
| Total | ... | ... | ... | 10 |
| | | | | — |

There was one death from notifiable infectious disease.

I regret to say that Measles caused four deaths during the year. This disease was very prevalent during the summer, and I was compelled to close the British Schools for several weeks on that account.

The births for the year were average; boys 66, and girls 71; total, 137. The number for 1906 was 140, and for 1905 137.

The infant mortality was again very high, being practically the same as in the previous year—1 in 7.

The total number of deaths for the year was 65, an increase of 14 on the year.

There were 10 deaths from Pneumonia (an unusual number), seven from Tubercular diseases, and three from Cancer.

The population is estimated at 5,200. The total acreage is 940.

Acting on the usual instructions from the Local Government Board, I beg to make the following observations :—

As far as I am aware the geographical situation of Eastwood remains the same as in 1906. The soil is clayey and heavy to work, and the crops suffered considerably from the wet summer of 1907.

As usual, there has been subsidence of land and damage to buildings through coal workings. On the south side several acres of land are under water on that account.

There are sufficient houses for the working classes, but they contain a plentiful lack of bathing accommodation.

The water supply is abundant and of very good quality.

The sewage and drainage are adequate, and are dealt with at the Joint Outfall Works.

The excrement is carted by the Council employees to agricultural land and allotment gardens. The Council also collects and disposes of the dry refuse.

The Slaughterhouses, Bakehouses, and Workshops are clean and healthy.

There are no common lodging houses and no offensive trades.

The usual system of notifying infectious diseases is in operation and works well, and all infected areas are duly cleansed and thoroughly disinfected.

There is no Isolation Hospital.

The principal disinfectants used are Izal and Carbolic Powder.

The usual tables of statistics are enclosed.

I have the honour to be, gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

D. M. FORBES, F.R.C.S.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during year 1907.
Parish of Eastwood.

| Causes of Death. | Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring in or beyond the District. | | | | | | |
|--|--|--------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| | All Ages. | Under 1 year | 1 and under 5. | 5 and under 15 | 15 and under 25. | 25 and under 65. | 65 and upwards |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| Measles | 4 | 3 | 1 | | | | |
| Whooping-cough | | | | | | | |
| Diphtheria and membranous croup | | | | | | | |
| Croup | | | | | | | |
| Fever (Enteric) Epidemic | 1 | | | | | 1 | |
| Influenza | 3 | | | 1 | | | 2 |
| Diarrhœa | | | | | | | |
| Enteritis | 3 | 2 | | | | | 1 |
| Erysipelas... .. | | | | | | | |
| Other septic diseases | | | | | | | |
| Phthisis(pulmonary tuberculosis) | 2 | | | 1 | 1 | | |
| Other tubercular diseases... .. | 5 | 1 | 2 | | | 1 | 1 |
| Cancer, malignant disease | 3 | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| Bronchitis | 3 | 1 | | | | | 2 |
| Pneumonia | 10 | 4 | 2 | 1 | | 1 | 2 |
| Other diseases of respiratoryorgans | 5 | | 1 | | | | 4 |
| Alcoholism (Delirium tremens) | 1 | | | | | 1 | |
| Premature birth | 4 | 4 | | | | | |
| Heart diseases | 3 | | | | | | 3 |
| Suicides | 2 | | | | | 2 | |
| Marasmus... .. | 2 | 2 | | | | | |
| Cerebral Diseases | 5 | | | | | 1 | 4 |
| Nephritis | 2 | | | | | 2 | |
| All other causes | 7 | 2 | 1 | | | 2 | 2 |
| All causes | 65 | 19 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 12 | 23 |

Vital Statistics of whole District during 1907 and previous years.

| Year | Popula- tion es- timated to middle of each year. | Births. | | Total Deaths registered in the District. | | | | Nett Deaths at all ages belonging to the District. | |
|------|--|---------|-------|--|--|--------------|-------|---|-------|
| | | Number | Rate. | Under 1 Year of Age. | | At all Ages. | | | |
| | | | | Number | Rate per 1,000 Births regis- tered. | Number | Rate. | No. | Rate. |
| 1903 | 5100 | 173 | 34 | 23 | | 72 | 14 | 72 | 14 |
| 1904 | 5200 | 138 | 26 | 24 | | 69 | 13 | 69 | 13 |
| 1905 | 5200 | 137 | 26 | 27 | | 80 | 15 | 80 | 15 |
| 1906 | 5200 | 140 | | 18 | | 51 | | 51 | |
| 1907 | 5200 | 137 | | 19 | | 65 | | 65 | |

Area of District in Acres (exclusive of area covered by water) ... 940

Total Population at all ages at Census of 1901 ... 5,200

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during year 1907.

| Notifiable Disease. | Cases Notified in whole District. | | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|---------|----------|-----------|----------|-------------------|
| | At all Ages. | 1 to 5. | 5 to 15. | 15 to 25. | 25 to 65 | 65 and upwards |
| Diphtheria... | 2 | | | 2 | | |
| Scarlet fever | 7 | 2 | 5 | | | |
| Enteric Fever | 1 | | | | 1 | |
| Totals... | 10 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 1 | |

Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces, and
Homework.

1.—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or
Inspectors of Nuisances.

| Premises. | | | Inspections. | Written Notices |
|-----------|-----|-------|--------------|-----------------|
| Factories | ... | ... | 3 | — |
| Workshops | ... | ... | 19 | 2 |
| | | | — | — |
| | | Total | ... 22 | 2 |

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

| Particulars. | Number of Defects. | | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|--------|---|----------|---|
| | | Found. | | Remedied | |
| Want of Ventilation | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 |
| Want of Drainage of Floors | | ... | 1 | ... | 1 |
| | | | — | | — |
| | | | 2 | | 2 |

Number of Registered Workshops 17